



# Iowa Ag News – Honey

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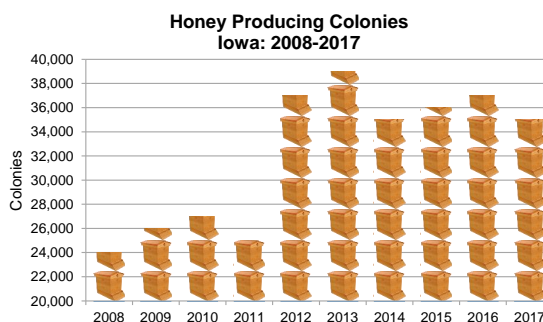
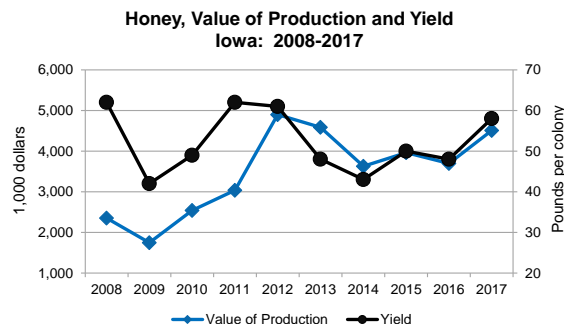
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Iowa totaled 2.03 million pounds in 2017 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was a 14 percent increase from the 1.78 million pounds produced in 2016. The number of honey producing colonies in the state decreased from 37,000 colonies in 2016 to 35,000 colonies in 2017. This number does not include producers with fewer than 5 colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where they produced honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 58 pounds, up from 48 pounds per colony in 2016. Iowa remains ranked nineteenth nationally in honey production, unchanged from 2016.

On December 15, 2017, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.04 million pounds, a 39 percent increase from 2016. The state's 2017 honey crop was valued at \$4.51 million, up 22 percent from the previous year's \$3.69 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.22, up 14 cents from 2016.



## Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2016 and 2017

[Operations with five or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.]

State	Producing Colonies <sup>1</sup>		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 <sup>2</sup>		Average Price per Pound <sup>3</sup>		Value of Production <sup>4</sup>	
	2016 (1,000)	2017 (1,000)	2016 (pounds)	2017 (pounds)	2016 (1,000 lbs)	2017 (1,000 lbs)	2016 (1,000 lbs)	2017 (1,000 lbs)	2016 (cents)	2017 (cents)	2016 (1,000 dollars)	2017 (1,000 dollars)
California .....	310	335	36	41	11,160	13,735	2,009	2,198	204	209	22,766	28,706
Florida .....	215	205	50	43	10,750	8,815	538	529	243	240	26,123	21,156
Georgia .....	96	99	39	32	3,744	3,168	899	190	269	296	10,071	9,377
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>3,694</b>	<b>4,507</b>
Louisiana .....	50	43	86	81	4,300	3,483	301	279	194	188	8,342	6,548
Michigan .....	89	87	60	45	5,340	3,915	1,709	822	237	241	12,656	9,435
Minnesota .....	124	126	59	62	7,316	7,812	1,390	1,016	169	186	12,364	14,530
Montana .....	159	145	77	72	12,243	10,440	3,183	2,506	177	230	21,670	24,012
New York .....	64	57	57	56	3,648	3,192	1,167	766	319	301	11,637	9,608
North Dakota ....	485	455	78	74	37,830	33,670	6,809	4,377	185	189	69,986	63,636
South Dakota ....	280	255	71	57	19,880	14,535	12,127	6,541	176	191	34,989	27,762
Texas .....	133	120	70	66	9,310	7,920	2,607	2,297	208	211	19,365	16,711
Wisconsin .....	54	53	62	56	3,348	2,968	1,205	683	267	277	8,939	8,221
<b>United States<sup>5,6</sup> ..</b>	<b>2,775</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>161,882</b>	<b>147,638</b>	<b>41,253</b>	<b>30,577</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>343,028</b>	<b>318,308</b>

<sup>1</sup> Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

<sup>4</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

<sup>5</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

<sup>6</sup> United States value of production will not equal summation of states.

## UNITED STATES BEE & HONEY

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2016. There were 2.67 million colonies producing honey in 2017, down 4 percent from 2016. Yield per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down 5 percent from the 58.3 pounds in 2016. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 30.6 million pounds on December 15, 2017, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 599 thousand pounds, down 22 percent from 2016. There were 20 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017, down 17 percent from 2016. The average yield was 30.0 pounds per colony in 2017, down 6 percent from the previous year.

United States honey prices decreased during 2017 to 215.6 cents per pound, up 2 percent from 211.9 cents per pound in 2016. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2016 crop reflect honey sold in 2016 and 2017. Some 2016 crop honey was sold in 2017, which caused some revisions to the 2016 crop prices.

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2017 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$14, \$76, and \$107 respectively. The average prices paid in 2017 for operations with less than five colonies were \$34 per queen, \$117 per package, and \$138 per nuc. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2017 was \$435 million, up 29 percent from 2016. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2017 was \$163 million, up 10 percent from 2016.